SOLD OUT!!!
DEFINITELY ALL GONE

ALL REGULAR LATE COMERS WHO PURCHASE MIB WILL HAVE NOTICED I AINT BEEN THERE, THAT'S BECAUSE I'VE BEEN SELLING OUT EARLY.

•

MADE IN BRUM
MIB
MADE IN BRUM
BHAM CITY F.C. FANZINE
THE UNOFFICIAL BLUES FANZINE
PLAYER, MANAGER, KING
BRUCIE
THE BLUES KING
VIEW FROM THE TILTON
KRO
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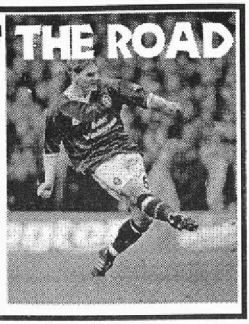
KEEP RIGHT ON TO THE END OF THE ROAD



As you go through life, it's a long, long road, There'll be joy's and sorrows too. As we journey on, we will sing this song For the boys in royal blue. We're often partisan, la, la, la, We will journey on, la, la, la.

Keep right on to the end of the road, Keep right on to the end. Though the way be long, Let your hearts be strong, Keep right on to the end. Though you're tired and weary, Still journey on, Till you come to your happy abode, With all our love, we'll be dreaming of. Will be there, WHERE? At the end of the Road. Birmingham! Birmingham!

CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions are very welcome, while we do have the right to edit any submissions. But please do not hesitate in sending in 'stuff' If you Agree/Disagree? with anything you have read in this mag, or there is something you think we could do better. Or perhaps something we are doing right? just write to: see above.
Or email us at:-
dltblue@thefreeinternet.co.uk

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The views and opinions expressed by individual contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the 'MIB' editorial team.

'MIB' will be produced as a match day magazine! And will be available all around St. Andrews on match day's.

Sellers: A great big slap on the back to all our sellers. It aint no problem in the summer months, but when they're standing on street corners in all sorts of crap weather they really earn their money. Thanks to:- Gary, Ben, Phil, Dave and Carleen and my self for putting up with England's great weather climate.

Where to buy? Coventry Road (by old Bingo) Cattell Road (by club shop) On corner Cattell/Coventry Road - Cattell/Tilton Road Corner - Tilton Road Turnstiles - Main Stand Side on bridge and in the The Roost, The Cricketers before most games.

PLEASE NOTE

Due to unforeseen circumstances the PO Box Number of MIB is not now available. So, if you want to send me any stuff by snail mail "DON'T" You can still email to either :-

Dltblue@thefreeinternet.co.uk or

davethomas@madeinbrum.freeserve.co.uk

You can of course come and say hello and hand me any stuff you want included in a future issue. You all know where I sell, I'm also at a fair few away games selling my wares.

DISCLAIMER

MIB is a totally independent magazine and therefore has no connection with Birmingham City Football Club Views expressed in this fanzine are not necessarily the view of the editorial, in fact 'the editorial' very rarely agrees with anything the scribes write, but beggars can't be choosers and MIB is not in a position to form a dictatorship over its scribes.

SUBSCRIBE TO MIB?

That, at the present time is going to be very very difficult, as we do not have a PO Box No.

But in the very near future we'll have an address for you to send off too. For all those presently under a subscription please don't worry, I've got your money - ha, ha. As soon as your due to renew I'll be getting in touch.

THIS ISSUE

BELIEVE IT OR NOT THIS IS THE 48TH LEAGUE ISSUE OF MIB WITH NUMEROUS CUP ISSUES AS WELL. CHEERS TO ALL WHO HELPED.

bit of an EDITORIAL like

MIB
MADE IN BRUM

Well, our first day of destiny as arrived and what a day it promises to be - and not just for us. We know exactly what we need to do, no questions asked a win is the only way. And at least it's all in our own hands. The other teams coming up behind have to rely on others to slip up. But who'd have thought we'd have been in this position only a couple of months ago. I've said it before but as the 5,000 Bluenoses trooped out of the Buggies ground the talk was of it being all over and just let Brucie build for next season. But here we are now on the verge of the playoffs and then? Well, who knows.

Okay, we've all been here before. The hope and the expectation. We've been the favourites to go at least to the final. But we've always gone into the playoffs on bad form. We'd made it into the last six weeks before and just lost that cutting edge. But this time it's a little different, we're on a run which if we win today will be ten games unbeaten. And we are playing some good stuff. Combine that to us coming up on the rails and not everybody's favourite to even get into the playoffs and you've got a very different Blues.

For all those that went up to Millmoor last week it just showed how close it is in the 1st division. From top to bottom there aint much difference. Perhaps if Rotherham had a goal scorer who could get 25 a season they would be pushing for the playoffs. So if, sorry - when we get into the playoffs whether we play the Tatters, Millwall, Burnley or who ever, there just isn't much between the teams. It's who plays the game of their lives over the two legs or who has the better luck. And has our luck changed at last? We have had it bad over the last three playoffs, either bad refs or just the bounce of the ball, lets just see hey.

We're now in the lap of the Gods and all we can do is get behind the lad 600%. Give it our best shot and I'll see you all in Cardiff.

Keep the Faith - Keep Right On - And have a Good Un.

Dave Thomas

BCFC/BLUES GLASSES BACK IN STOCK - £5

WHY WE ARE BLUES FANS!!! YOUR EITHER BLUE OR YOUR NOT

From the Rough Guide to English football sums up the true spirit of real Bluenoses -

"...at St Andrews, the club's home for nearly a century, and where the PA anthem 'Singin the Blues' is belted out, loud and proud, by thousands of Brummie voices. The lyrics are sung with feeling, and for good reason - the club's story is as melancholy as anything Muddy Waters could have written, a tortured tale of chances half taken, resources squandered, hopes falsely raised and silverware spurned. Yet still they come, the section of the Birmingham public for whom the club symbolises their city, their background, their life. Forever devoted, forever hopeful. Forever Blue."

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SCENA

As we go into today's match against Sheffield United there are loads of 'Scenarios' of things that could happen, might happen and most definitely will happen. There is of course only one 'Scenario' that us Bluenoses want to see, and that is a great big walloping win for the boys in Blue. Three, four or five nil would be rather nice, even a 1-0 win would see us through, but this result will play havoc on my health. But a wins a win, we're good enough - that's a fact, we've got the fire power and the guile to see off the 'Blades' but things don't always go to plan, do they. There is of course other factors with the arrival of Steve Bruces old team, yep - you've got it. See where I'm coming from. Old Brucie left em and like most 'Old' teams they like to seek out revenge, and old 'Warnock' is a bit of an animal and will probably tell his players to ruin our day big time. But like all things in life, things 't always go to plan and it's the same for every team who wants to get into the playoffs. We might think we've got it bad, but unlike other teams at least it's all in our hands.

But what if it does go wrong, is there a way in through the back door. You know, like another team does us a real big favour. It's happened before and it will happen again. So lets look at the runners and riders on this last day of season lottery they call the Playoffs.

We can't catch the Tatters or the Buggies, they're fighting there own battle to see who goes up automatically with the

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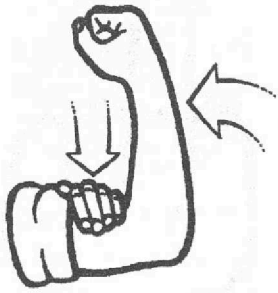
ARIOS

Buggies in the driving seat. But in that fight there still might be an upset, you never know hey.

Next up are the Cockney Bow Bells lot from deepest Den Land. That's right 'No one likes us we don't care' now that's true. They're in poll A position, though only 1 point ahead of us, and like us they're at home today against Grimsby. And believe it or not, the Mariners are one of the form teams of the moment - though more so at home. But you never know do you, Millwall will have nerves just like all the other teams trying to secure their playoff place. They have got a very good home record though. When we played em way back in August I'd have said they were relegation fodder. They were poor, very poor. But just look at them now, in there with a great shout of the playoffs. If things do stay as they are we'll be going down to the Den on a Thursday night for what will be a very tense affair, in more ways than one. But before that they'll be loads of twists and turns.



Next possible playoff team is Burnley, but they are trying their hardest to NOT get in there. Murdered last Saturday up in fish country 3-1 they were probably thinking the worst. But it's a funny old game. And the 'Clarets' (I hate that word) are still in there. Today they are at home to Coventry and are probably odds on to get the three points which will secure them their playoff position. Now Covo were in it up until they decided to capitulate big time. They could have helped us last week against Millwall, but fluffed it. And again today they could help us big time, but don't rely on it. But Covo are a funny old team. All season they've gone on good runs of four or five good results then gone on really bad runs. So with their last four games being 'Mares' they could be in line to get a result. Burnley are way down the form team league so you just never know, and if Covo were to either get a point or beat em we're in what ever happens today.

Coming up on the rails are outsiders Norwich. In their Green and yellow kit they make for a pretty site. But honestly, what are this lot doing any where near the playoffs. They are without doubt the poorest playoff contender. But being poor doesn't always mean they get their just

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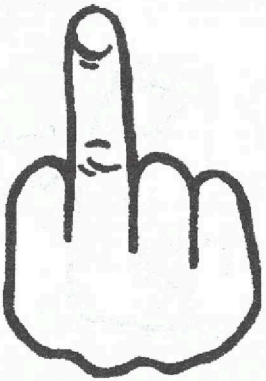
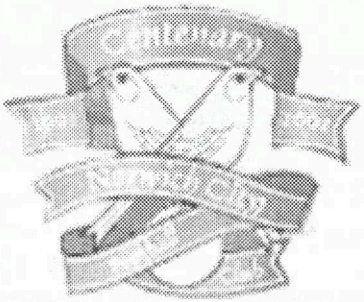
MIB SCENARIOS

rewards. One good result today and they could be in that last playoff place. And aren't they the lucky ones, a home tie against the first division whipping boys Stockport County. But again you just never know, County have put together some decent results since their relegation and are a mid table form team.

And last of all are our old friends from Deepdale, the Knob Enders. They blew it big time down at Selhurst last week, going down 2-0 to TF's Palarse. But they could still get in. Granted it would be a right royal surprise. But where there's life there's hope as they say. The Knobs are at home to Nottingham Forest. But for them to get in Burnley and Norwich will both have to lose. A long shot but it is a funny old game.





So to sum up (hope your ready for this) starting from the bottom - if Preston win and Burnley/Norwich lose the Knobs are in. If Burnley draw or lose Norwich are in. If Norwich win 2-0 and Burnley win 1-0 Norwich are in. If Burnley win 2-0 and Norwich win 1-0 Burnley are in. If Millwall lose and Burnley and Norwich win Millwall drop out - still with me!!!

Now lets concentrate on us - all we have to do is win. Simple isn't it. We can do it and hopefully will do it. But if we don't we could still creep in. Now that isn't what we want. Since our good run started we've wanted to keep it going, because going into the playoffs the form team is the thing to do. And at the moment we are the form team. And if we get into the playoffs we shouldn't be afraid of anyone - exciting stuff don't you think, because me thinks it too. Today is the day we set in motion our destiny. We're good enough to do it, and by God do us the supporters deserve it. Lets hope the players can do it for us.

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MERCHANDISE

Coming very soon? New badge designs and a new Bluenose Army hat. The badges are being cast in the 'Mountain of Doom' and the hats are being put together in a sweat shop somewhere in Indonesia. So they both might get in this country sometime next year. But you never know!!!!

NEW BADGES NOW AVAILABLE

OLD BADGES STILL AVAILABLE

all these great designs are two quid - and if you buy 3 different styles you can pick them up for a fiver

All these badges come in a combination of colours - watch out for new designs which will appear every 3 or 4 home games.
Bob The Builder Badges now in - And loads of England badges.

Coming soon - a new range of leisure wear? Well, Polo tops and T-Shirts. We might even have some hats as well.

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The John HIT

Is it me, or has this season flown by? It doesn't seem like two minutes ago that we were in chaos over who would be our next manager, and the club was up for sale. Now we're back in the chase for promotion, and hopefully today we shall see Blues make the play-offs for the fourth consecutive season. I'm frightened to write that in case we fuck up as per usual, but who knows - this second part of the season has been full of pleasant surprises, and hopefully there will be more to come over the coming weeks.

Regardless of what happens today, Blues under Steve Bruce have finally begun to look like a team that can outclass other teams in this division. I'm not saying they are doing so at the moment on a consistent basis, but should we again suffer the heartbreak of yet another season in the first division, then as long as we make some astute buys over the summer (and not just talk about who we're planning to go for) we could, and should, be going for automatic promotion if not the title. Looking at the teams who are coming down (Leicester, Derby, maybe Ipswich) and the teams coming up (Brighton, one of Brentford/Reading and play-off winners) then we have no one to be frightened of except ourselves. If we do manage to win promotion, we will have to spend big and spend well, but I don't want to tempt fate at this stage. God willing, we will finally do it this season, but then again I'm sure we've all suspected God is a Viler before!

Anyway, there's been a lot of talk recently over this banter between parts of the Tilton, and the chants of 'Loyal Supporters' coming back again. The banter across the Tilton I think is mainly light hearted, but the loyal supporters thing has got a lot of people agitated again. I would say there are probably around 70-80% 'loyal supporters' at Blues, some with season tickets, and some without. The others make up the 7,000 or so who come down when it's a fiver or when we look like doing something. At the risk of sounding too much like Tom Ross, those who can't afford to go to every game, or those who have to work etc. shouldn't be criticised. However, it's those who can afford to go but just can't be bothered to get down to the ground, or watch it on TV instead who let the side down. I went to the Bradford game around November time, and there were only around 20,000 in the ground. Times were bad certainly, but surely that's the best time to get behind the team. I appreciate at the time that people were unhappy with the board and so on and so forth, but if that's the case why the fuck weren't they down at the ground for the Wolves game?? More fool them that day, as we made one of the best comebacks I've seen for a long time and deserved to win the game. However that many people for an

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EHOUSE Article

important derby match was an abomination. Was it because the game was on ITV Digital? How many people do you know who have an ITV digital box? I don't know anybody personally. People were ringing up Tom Ross after game from the pub though! For God's sake - if you can afford to go down the pub surely you can afford to go to the game! Obviously to the vast majority of MIB readers, this won't apply in the slightest, but if you someone who does do that give em a nudge and get them down the ground next season. Maybe think twice about getting that play-off final ticket they are so desperate for but need your ticket stub! Then again all indications seem to imply that we're in for a full house this afternoon, so perhaps they won't get a ticket anyway. It is on the telly today though, and so will the play-offs I imagine...

Anyway enough ranting about lazy Blues fans, now onto one of my least liked teams, today's visitors. I've never liked Sheffield United. Maybe it's because on my birthday a few years ago Blues threw away a two goal lead in a 4-4 draw at Bramell Lane. Perhaps it's the fact that we always seem to reserve one of our worst performances of the season for our trip to the Blades - I don't want to even think about our trip there earlier this season. Possibly it's the fact that Neil Warnock is one of the most disliked managers in division one, and even admitted so himself after the 'Battle of Bramell Lane' with the yam yams. I don't really care - I just hope we beat this lot out of sight this afternoon. With nerves in the Blues camp I can't see it happening, but it would be nice, as well as a big relief. I imagine this will be Neil Warnock's last game in charge of the Blades anyway after the way things have conspired for him this season.

Anyway, sing loud and sing proud this afternoon. I said it before the Ipswich game last season, and I'll say it again today, and in the play-offs should we make it - WE CAN DO IT!!! However we all need to help get behind the side and give Blues that 12th man. Steve Bruce has said he came back here for the atmosphere inside the ground - let's give it to him today, the play-offs (hopefully) and every match next season, be it Premiership or Division One. If we go behind, we sing, and we sing louder than we did before. We've been to hell and back this season - let's go all the way to heaven. Keep Right On (and if you've forgotten or don't know the words, they are in the front of this fanzine - learn them and SING THEM!!!).

John

FOUR GO FI

OR INTO HELL THE EASY WAY

Bank Holiday Monday and a time for gardening, decorating, shopping, or just relaxing? Bollocks, it's a time to get off ya arse and supporting your team, and in this case it was a trip down to deepest Sarf Landan to a place called Selhurst. Palarse is always a crap place to get too, by car or coach it's a bummer. It only takes just over an hour to get down to the M25, but then your trouble start. You could cut a swath straight through the metropolis or do the M25 jaunt, either is a killer. So for a change, we had a change, we toffed it on ya Virgin Express down to Euston. But not your ordinary away day ticket for the lads, no we decided to splash out and go first class. Woooo, expensive? Well, no. If you book early enough you get get it cheap, and I do mean cheap. For the four of us it cost only £50.00, now if you do your maths that's only £12.50 each, not bad hey. And thrown in they give you all the trimmings. Sandwiches, drinks, biscuits, cakes, peanuts and crisps. Smashing, so let the day begin, and lets get down the the Smoke.

I met up with the lads at 9 sharp in lower Harborne at Phils mums house, parked up outside and we were away. I don't know what it is, but it seems I'm in charge of keeping everyone out of trouble. Probably my age, being an oldish git perhaps, but Phils mum made a point of telling me to look after them all and keep em' out of trouble. What about me, who's going to look after me? So we were off, a nice early morning jaunt into Harborne to get the bus into Town. So cans in hand we made our way to New Street Station, made

nice in the First Class Init

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RST CLASS

it in plenty of time and as we walked onto the platform our 'Carriage' was arriving. We made our way to carriage H, and very nice it was too, much better then those other carriages, you know the second class ones.

Thommo and Little Thommo give us their biggest grins

As soon as the train started to move it was time to break open the cans and start the day off in the right way. And it wasn't long before the lovely stewardess came around with their trolley with all the goodies on. Though some of the sandwiches didn't sound too nice, not really for the pallets of us down to earth people. The Beef and Horseradish didn't sound too bad, but the cheese and apple? What all that about. It was soft drinks, or tea and coffee, but being as though we had a few cans the trolley beverages weren't needed. A couple of the lads had the peanuts, well if you can call em' that. They were mixed peanuts, but there must have been something wrong with them, some were green!!! Not very nice at all. We also had a free complimentary paper as well, though with only the 'Times' left bit of a hard read, and that's just turning the pages. Where were the 'Stars' and the 'Sun' perhaps not for the normal First Class passenger though. There were a fair few other Bluenoses on board, and quite a few doing the 'First Class' experience. I meet Tommo and his younger brother for the first time, been meaning to meet up with him for ages. And Duncan Adams of 'View from the Tilton' fame came and introduced himself.

We were really impressed with the journey, and the good thing is that it left on time and it was going to get to it's destination on time. It took just 1 hour and forty minutes, now that aint bad at all. To while away the time we discussed next season when hopefully we'll be in the Premier, well you have to don't you. Six London clubs mean six excursions down to the Smoke and why would you want to

A Palarse fan gets in on the act...

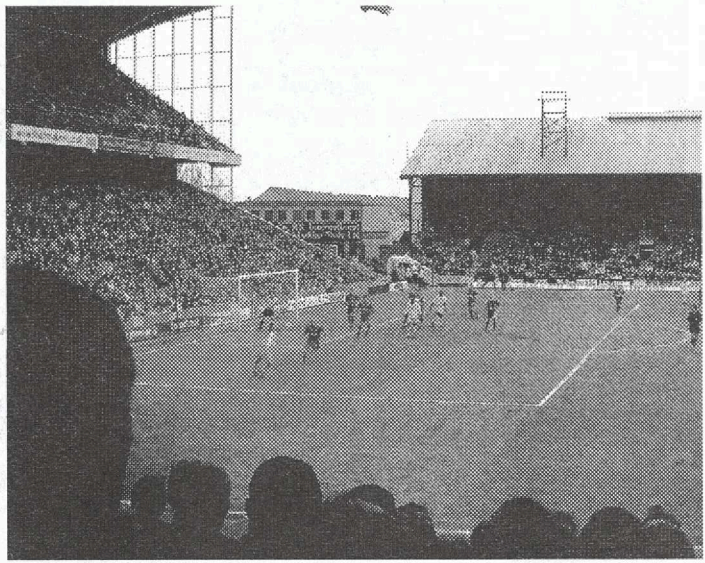
drive when you can travel in style that's what I say. Sounds good, six trips to all the major clubs in the capital, and all by First Class travel.

As the train pulled in to Euston my mind wandered back to the dark old days of the seventies, remember them when the old footie specials arrived at their destinations. Before the train had stopped we were all piling off and the chants went up 'Birmingham, Birmingham' echoing around the station. A bit different this time, just a leisurely stroll through Euston to the Underground. First shock of the day - a day tripper ticket, which would be the cheapest way to and back from Selhurst costs £4.50 each. Bloody hell, it cost's £12.50 to travel a hundred miles then £4.50 to do 15 miles, bit of a rip off there me thinks. So it was down to Victoria to get our connection to Norwood. There was a bit of as wait so who not have some beverages in a nice Witherspons. But before you see the Witherspons you want a slash, the pub by the bogs is shut? Why. So there's only one thing for it and that's to use the BR toiletries,. Fucking 20p to take a leak, we aint half got it good in Brum. So we had a quick pint in the bar, Mark and myself decided to knock ours back and get a Macky D's before the train journey to our final destination. As is the norm at Victoria Station McDonalds, they're too bloody slow. How long does it take to get a Big Mac and some fries I ask

you. Last season when we did the Victoria thing it took Chris almost 15 minutes to get served and then get his food. Mind you, it seems that every where you go in London, and I mean everywhere the people serving in these places are foreigners.

So it was a bit of a dash to get the train, but we made it, just. It's only about 6 or 7 stops and it wasn't as nice as our first class seats, and that's for sure. The scenery is really nice as you cross the river and travel through the nicer parts of South London. In fact it's down right depressing, again I say how lucky we are in Brum. Soon we were at Norwood Junction and across the road into the Railway & Telegraph. it's a decent pub and a regular with a fair few Palarse fans, so a good time was sure to be had by one and all. The first of many rounds was ordered and the drinking began. The same Palarse lads were in there from our last visit last season, not a bad bunch. Just your typical cockney's, all mouth. Though they did have a rather strange member of their drinking crew. A strange beast as well, we weren't sure whether it was a man, boy or girl. Though we came to the conclusion it was a shemale. We had a good old time in there talking about the Blues and our great away trips over the seasons. Tommo and his brother was in there, and we had a good old chat, nice lads, well they are true Blue so what else would they be. These Palarse lads started to sing some songs. Now what sort of songs do you think they sang. Palarse songs? Anti Bruce songs? Well no, they started singing anti Francis songs, you know the one, the Pedophile tune!!! Now what supporters sing that song about their own manager, yep you guessed it 'Palarse' fans. As I said, a very strange bunch, friendly enough but strange.

It's funny how the time flies when your enjoying yourselves, and before you could say 'Blues' are going up it was time to make tracks. You'd have thought Blues were at home with all the faces we saw on our way to the ground. So it was into the cauldron? Well that's what the papers all

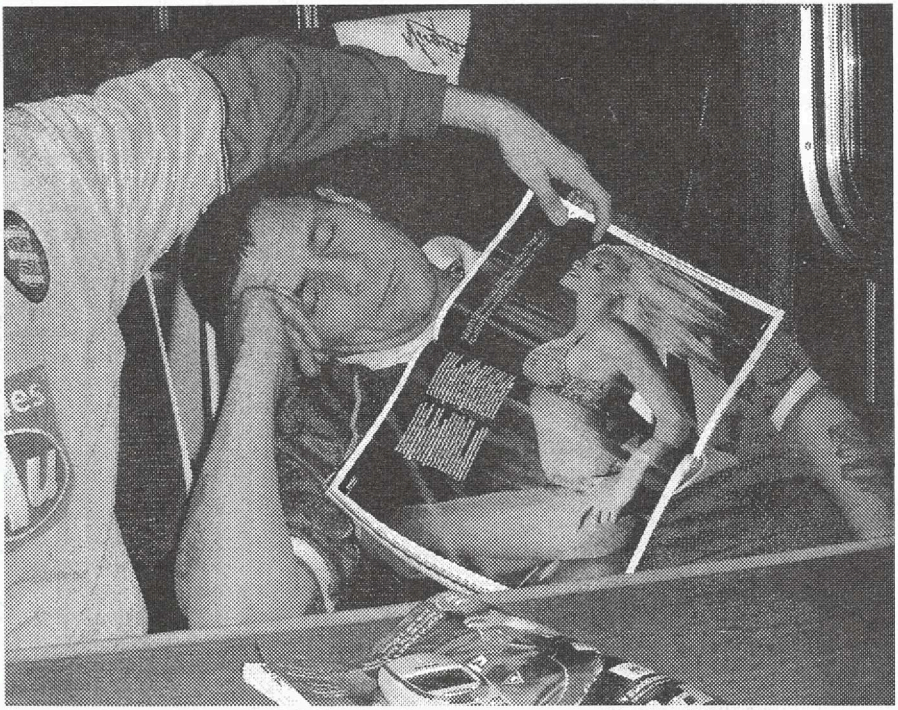


Blues on the attack again

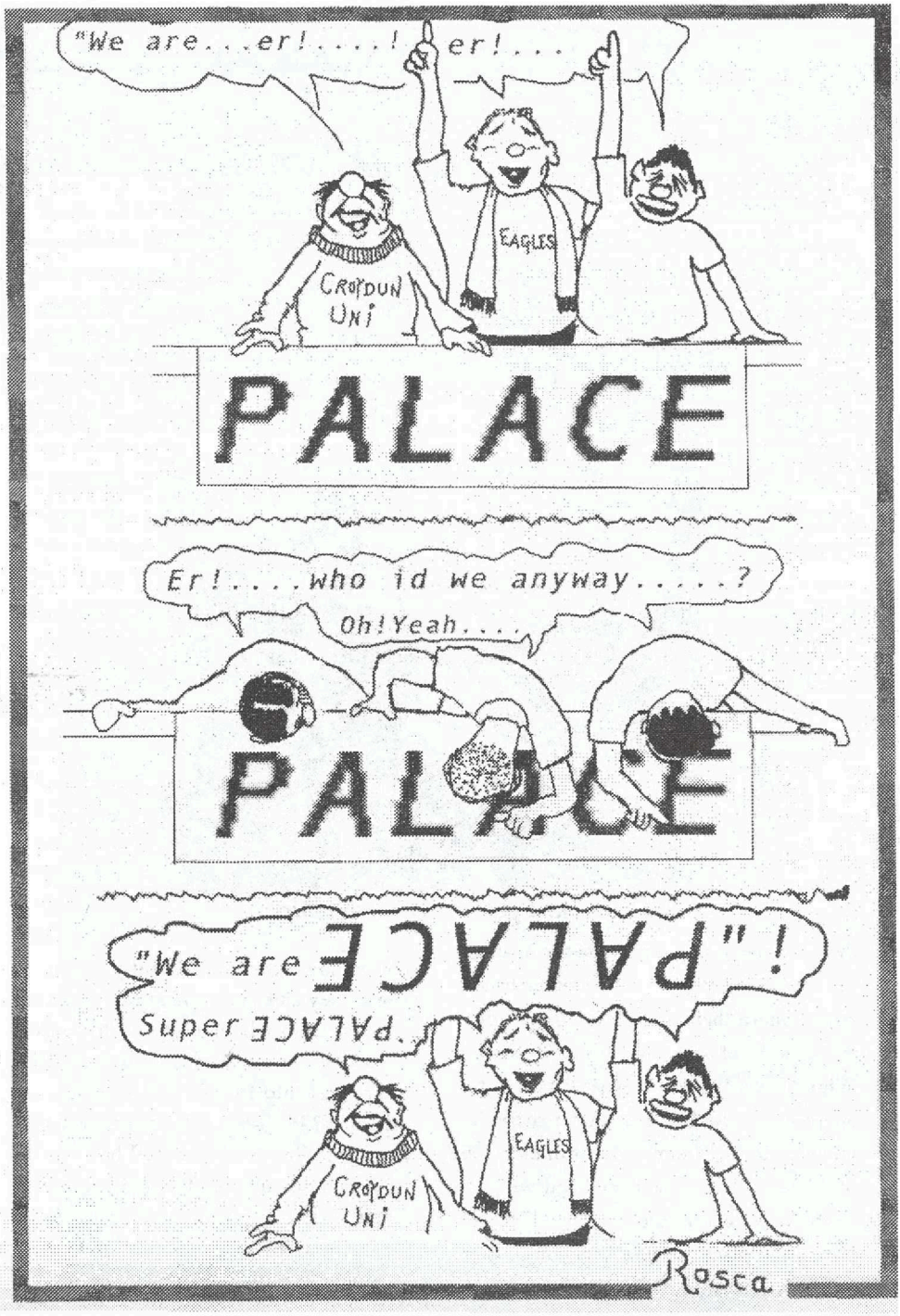
said. All the hatred and bile we were going to get. Suppose Brucie got it all, right in the neck. One thing was for certain, the atmosphere wasn't at all bad. We out sung those cockneys no problem. Though it was a bit worrying, it took them until the second half to sing their favourite song 'Sit Darn Shat Ap'. Oh, intimidating or what.

The game? If the early chances had gone in it would have been oh so different. Firstly Horsfield then John had one on ones with the Palarse goalie. In the end a draw was a great result. The second half was nearly all Palarse and Supa Nico had a blinder. Game over and it was time to get back to civilisation. Same route back, but this time quicker. We zoomed back to Victoria and then back on the underground to Euston. Got there in plenty of time to do some more drinking in the Railway Bar and another snack. So a bit of reflection our day was had before the long trip back. It was nice to have a bit of a rest and some little luxury after our trek across London. Again it was the pampering and niceties of life in the first class areas. Food and drink and then a nice kip until we pulled into New Street.

All in all a great day was had by the four in first class. Pity we didn't win, but you cant have it all can you. Would we do it again? You bloody bet we would. And hopefully we'll be on the New Street to Euston Express six times next season.



Sweet dreams Phil - it's been a very tough day!!!



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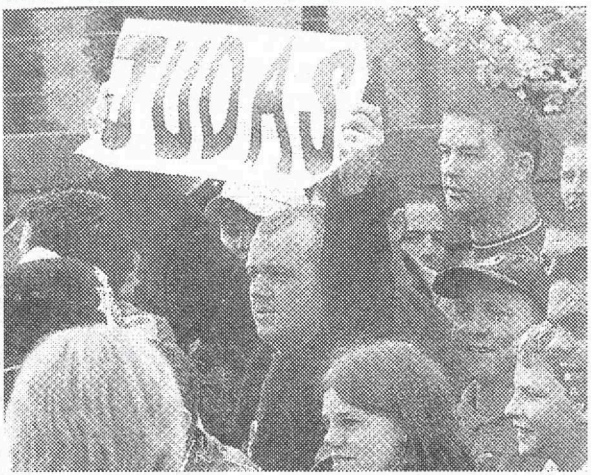
HATRED

So, our Stevie Brucie got it in the neck good and proper down at the Palarse. Did he deserve it? Well that's debatable. Does anyone deserve that sort of treatment. At least he left at the top and in good shape. But how would we feel if someone poached our manager, what sort of treatment would we give that man on his return. Well, we're a different breed up here in Brum, we seem to just get on with life with a shrug of the shoulders in the knowledge that we are better than all the rest. Now Palarse on the other hand know where their place is and it aint on the same level as us, and that's for sure. Who do you blame for what Brucie got. Suppose you could blame our owners, if they had brought him in last summer none of this would have happened and we might have been in the automatic promotion place as well. You could blame Palarse's Jordan, now his is a top rated wanker. He likes to stoke up an already out of control fire and make it ten times worse. Or blame good old Brucie himself. If he's have stayed the course everyone would have thought what a nice old sort he is. But as Brucie said there was more to it then first meets the eye. And Jordan wont let him tell us the rue story, so we'll never know will we, well not for a while anyway.



Sad - just get on with your life.

They had good old go at missile practice didn't they. Was it two bottles and lots of spittle and phlegm. Well, they aint got nothing else to look forward to so why not let em' have their day and get it out of their system. Will Palarse get into trouble for what happened? Probably not, well they aint us are they. Now if all that stuff had happened down St Andrews the league would have thrown the book at us. And Jordan, will he be brought to book for his comments and the way he fuelled it all?

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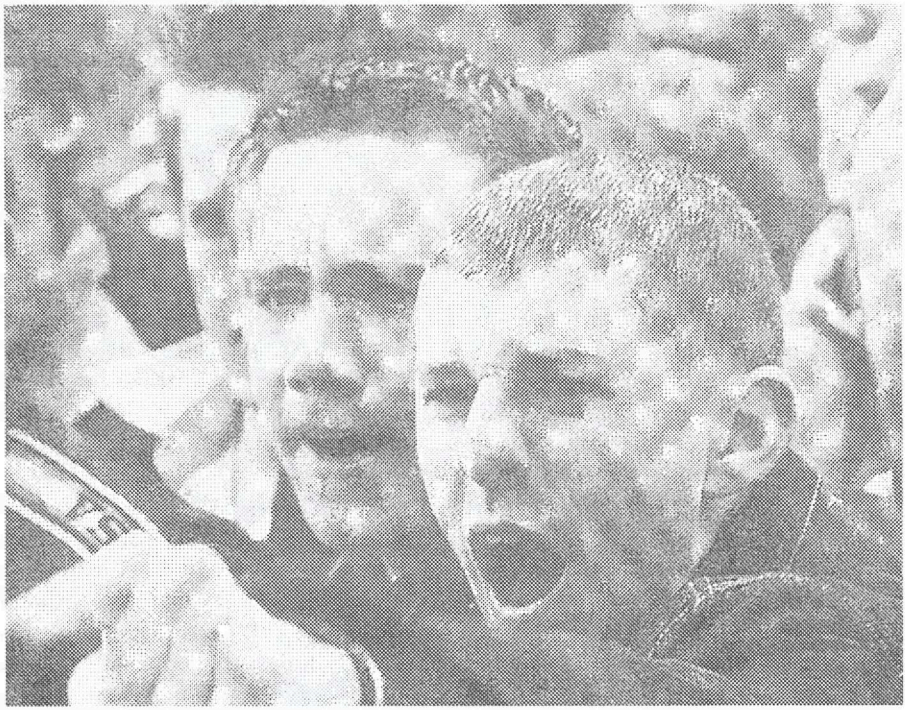
AND BILE

Again probably not. He said he was surprised that the Palarse fans weren't more vehement. He went on to say that you cant legislate for the fans because football is an emotional game. So he's giving his clubs supporters backing in what they did before, during and after the match. Now would our owners try and stoke up the fires if the boot was on the other foot? I doubt it very much. But then again our owners aren't scum of the earth like Jordan is. If nothing else they are gentlemen.

All along he's been able to have his say. Even the programme had a piece taking the piss and trying to make things just a little worse. Will it all end here, very doubtful, this will rumble on and on. I know it's hard for them but they must just get on with their lives and remember their place in life, which of course is way way below us. A shame I know but true.



Even sadder. Instead of demonstrating why don't you just get behind your team?

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THE NATI

FROM THREE TO ONE A LEAGUE OF MEDIOCRITY

We've seen it all before, teams getting promoted to the Premier then coming straight back down again. This is a modern day phenomenon. Us old uns' remember the time when teams went up to the top flight and held their own with no problem at all. But with the top league changing it's name to the Premier and Sky pumping the money in all those 'Good' old days are long gone. But even the Premier is turning into a bit of a two/three/four horse race, a bit like the SPL where Rangers and Celtic win everything. Now how boring is that. Well, it's gone that way at the top of the English League as well. The days when a non-league team (Wimbledon) could rise through the leagues and finish second in the top flight are gone forever.

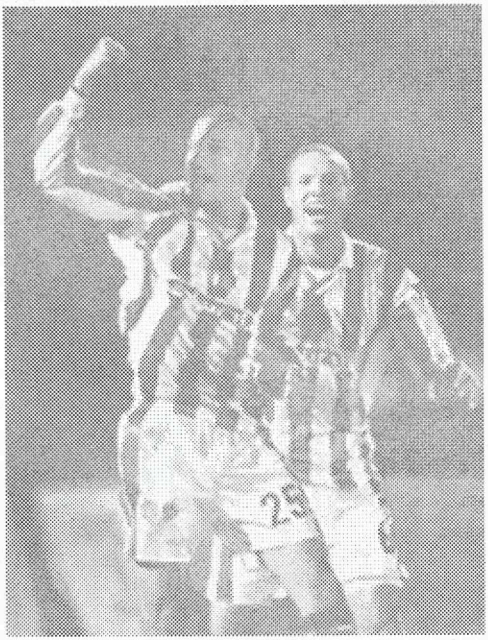
But dreams can still happen in the Nationwide. And the reason for this is the fact that from the top to the bottom of the pile there just aint that much between em'. It was only a few seasons ago that they said that about the Conference and the Third Division, but now it spans the Third to the First, and it might even include the top part of the Conference. You only have to look at the teams who get promotion in each league. Just look at Brighton. They were almost relegated from the league a few seasons ago, then last season they were Champion's of the Third, and they've done it again this season. Even though they lost their inspirational manager mid term. They just kept on winning. They aint got no money, they haven't got a proper stadium and they cant get any more than 6.000 in to see them. They way things are going they might even be good enough for the First Division playoffs next season. But there they might just hit the brick wall. With no more money coming in from bigger crowds it might just stop them in their tracks.

There are other teams as well - Rotherham for one, they went from the third straight to the first. But again the small crowds stooped them from progressing. That didn't happen with Burnley or Preston though. They came up together and both have pushed for the top six over the last two seasons. Preston, as all us Bluenoses know made the playoff final. Burnley just missed out last season but this time as we speak they are on the verge of getting into the end of season lottery. Both have done it because they can draw bigger crowds. But if by any chance either got into the Premier they'd both come crashing back down. It's just the way of the modern world of Footie I'm afraid.

Premier league is totally different from Nationwide football, and that being the case it works the other way round as well. It's hard for teams that go up, but it's also hard for teams that come down. Especially those that have been up in the Premier for a long time. Just look at Coventry, they came down and thought they'd go straight back up. But you only have to look at Blackburn Rovers,

ONWIDE

they came down and struggled for one season, then got used to the style and did the business. But they did one thing which Covo haven't, and that's kept their nerve. By that I'm the sacking of their management duo. And I'm afraid the Sky Blues might just have blown their chances for next season.



Zamora the scorer - Brighton's prize asset but how long can they keep him?

What about the teams coming down from the Premier next season? Out of Leicester and Derby the one most likely to come back up is Leicester. Okay, I know they're crap but they have the fighting style of players needed and a young manager who knows the Nationwide. I would even go as far as to say Leicester City will go up as Champions. Derby County on the other hand might struggle big time. They've got far too many foreign player, who will either want to leave or just wont want the fight in the first next season.

How about the teams going up? The Mancs will be better equipped - they've done the up and down and up jig, and now they also got Keegan and the promise of £30 million. Between the Tatters and the Buggies the better equipped is the Tatters, but they aint gonner get up. The Buggies will struggle big time, but they'll have their season in the top flight.

Now I'll let my heart do the talking!!! I could say 'IF' but I'll say 'WHEN' we get into the Premier, I do really think we can survive. That is because we have a wise manager and hopefully £30 million to bring in the players needed. Oh, and we can draw in big crowds - don't get me wrong, it will be hard but we can survive. Just like the teams coming up from the second to the first, 2 if not all three will push for the playoffs. And if Reading come up they could go all the way - just a hunch.

All this could change though over night - with Celtic and Rangers quitting the SPL, that can only mean one thing. And that is they'll be a new second tier league with the two Scottish giants involved. We wont be in there though because we'll be in the top flight wont we!!!

WHORE THE T

Gemini

May. 21 - Jun. 21 Community service at the Tatter nursing home really sucks, huh? Old people smell like beef and are full of lies. It almost wasn't worth seducing that underage kid down the road ... almost.

Cancer

June 21 - July 22 You are a sad Tatter bastard.

Leo

July 22 - Aug. 23 You may find you are in a good mood for once, sort of. The infection has finally eased up and that lingering smell is not so potent today. Hint: Saran wrap is not a condom you Dingle fool you.

Virgo

Aug. 23 - Sept. 22 Tatter Saturn says that a new love will come into your life and sweep you off your feet. When your old love finally tracks you down, he will make a belt out of your nipples.

Libra

Sept. 22 - Oct. 22 So no one has applied yet for the position scrubbing the semen off the walls of those Molinque Bogs? Don't get too upset, your mother can do the job, cause she does it at home.

Scorpio

Oct. 22 - Nov. 22 Scorpio is known for it's compassion, strength and luster. All Scorpios except for you, Tatter that is. Oh, they call you scorpio alright, but that's because you are known for having crabs. Revel in your popularity, even if it may be negative. Make sure to scratch when everyone is looking to let them know that you don't care what they think.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22 - Dec. 21 Today is a day for recollection. It seems like just yesterday you packed

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TATTERSCOPE

your things at the tender age of 14 and left for the city, where you met that older man who took you in and gave you a bed that you shared with four other Tatter kids about your age who would leave the room when it was your turn to work. A stranger stepped into your life and gave you direction when you had none. You should be more thankful.

Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 20 The stars are in place and Jupiter has assumed the Dingle position. You are going to be raped in prison.

Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 19 The stars were on an all-night bender with Jupiter, and are a little hung-over. You will meet someone, either a man or a woman. He or she will be wearing pants. Something will probably happen. Look, this astrology shit isn't as easy as it looks, okay? To be honest, Jupiter is getting a little sick and tired of your stupid Tatter questions, and the stars think you should go fuck yourself.

Pisces
Feb. 19 - March 20 Pisces, the moon is telling you for the last time: she doesn't love you and she never will. Get on with your life Tatter. At least you still have that belt you made from her nipples.

Aries
March 20- April 19 You might as well learn right now that people don't always mean what they say. Like that time your Dingle mom said you were "special," she actually meant, you were "adopted."

Taurus
April 19 - May 20 So, you're thinking of packing up and taking a trip into the woods, huh? Ever seen the Blair Witch Project? That is a true story. As a matter of fact, statistics show that in almost every national forest, at least one murder has been committed and four bodies have been found. Happy trails, dead Tatter man.

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ARE WE GOOD ENOUGH?

by Quinton Blue

Well it looks as if West Bromwich Albion will be playing Premiership football next season barring a total disaster for them next weekend. What is happening? A seasons ago West Brom were happy just managing to stay in the first division, last year the surprisingly just managed to get into the play offs. This year, to their credit, they have been in the top six places throughout most of the campaign, and now they look as if they will go up. So if they can do it, why can't we? Why after TF had five years at it are we still in this poxy division? So many teams have made it look easy, and got out. It just seems as if we try everything in the book, but still always seem to come up short. Are we good enough to go up this season? If you asked me after the Grimsby game I would have said yes. We played some very good football, and although Grimsby had good possession in the first half, we ran out comfortable winners, and the performance and play was impressive. Then we went to Crystal Palace, and got a draw. Then we played at home to Portsmouth, and at times we were shocking, and got a draw. Against Crewe, we were better, but to be fair couldn't have got much worse. We won the game comfortably, but Crewe are hardly world beaters, hence the fact they are now relegated. Then today, we play Rotherham, and draw again. The performance was average, and we didn't really look as if we had anything special in the team to break them down. I know this was a big game for Rotherham as they were fighting for their survival in div 1, but this was as equally a big game for us. We are trying to finish in 4th place, and surely it should have meant just as much to us. All in all it wasn't a bad point, because Man City drew, and Albion lost against Rotherham at Millmoor - however surely with so much at stake, we should have won the game with the quality we are supposed to have in the side.

Quinton Blue

HUNDREDS FLOCK TO LOOK AT STIFFS!!!

Hundreds of people are flocking to a controversial new exhibition featuring a load of corpses.

The exhibition, which is being held on a fortnightly basis in Aston, features 11 men, all wearing claret & blue shirts.

One of the corpses, a Mr Merson, pictured right, has apparently had a death wish for years to drink and gamble his life away which aint too bad but the final death wish was joining the Vile.

"They've been dead-in-the-water for months now," said one eye-witness. "And yet people are still turning up and paying good money to watch them." ever since the Turnip turned up they've been on a down ward curve. Locals have complained, saying the whole thing is 'sick'

"The whole thing is sick," said one man who we shall call 'Gregors' but whose real name is in fact John 'Relegated' Gregory. "They stand around in a field doing nothing for 90 minutes and yet people still keep coming back," said Gregors.

"I think it's all very grisly, I left because Deadly was a bit like a stiff." but now all the players are stiff.

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BLUE REPORTING

Blues 0 Palarse 0

Francis versus Bruce. Jordan versus Sullivan and Gold. In form team versus under pressure team. This game could barely have been hyped up much further, and with an electric atmosphere inside Selhurst Park, all was set for a thrilling game of football. So who forgot to tell the players?

Both teams looked weary following the hectic Bank Holiday weekend of football, and as both sets of fans - the Palace fans in particular - focussed on faces off the field, those on the field struggled to put together anything like a decent football match, which was hardly helped by a pitch that had more bobbles in it than Claire's Accessories. It remains to be seen whether Palace manager Trevor Francis will claim that this was a help or a hindrence to his side.

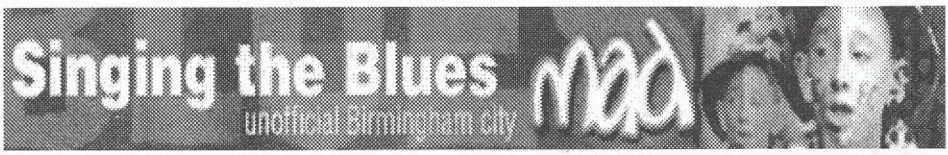
The first half passed by fairly quickly, thanks to the up-tempo nature of the game. Unfortunately the football was poor, although both sides managed to carve out clear cut opportunities - Stern John bringing an excellent save out of Matt Clarke after being put through by Geoff Horsfield, and Clinton Morrison somehow firing wide when it looked easier to score. Largely though, both sides cancelled one another out, with the defences and goalkeepers undoubtedly coming out on top.

The second half brought with it a few more chances, the majority of which fell to Palace, who found Nico Vaesen to be in sparkling form yet again. His one double save from initially a Danny Granville free kick, and Dougie Freedman's follow-up had to be seen to be believed. Blues went close through a long range effort from John, and a Jeff Kenna free kick which missed the far post by an agonising few inches. Blues seemed content to try and catch Palace on the break, and some lacklustre passing by the home side allowed Blues several opportunities, two of which were wasted by the Hughes' - Bryan and Michael respectively.

Palace did continue to pressurise however, and perhaps had one of their trio of strikers Ade Akinbiyi, Morrison or Freedman been on form, the sub-standard Blues performance may well have been punished. Perhaps also if the Palace fans had watched the action on the pitch, rather than monitoring Steve Bruce's movements for 90 minutes, then that little bit of extra support for their team, as opposed to abuse to our manager may also have helped their cause - not to mention booing your own centre forward.

All in all a satisfactory result for Blues who will just be glad to have got the 'biggest' game of their run-in out of the way. The likes of Michael Hughes, Tom Williams and Curtis Woodhouse just couldn't get themselves into the game, and Horsfield was back to his worst - he must have controlled the ball about twice without giving away a free kick. A friend of mine (Palace fan) who was at the game commented that it was their best performance of recent weeks, whereas it was certainly Blues' poorest over the same period of time, so a point is not as bad as some may suspect - especially with teams around us struggling to win today too.

Bluenose Ron



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HADDOCK IN

Blues v Portsmouth

Back to reality. After a couple of home games at a proper time on Saturday afternoon, we once again return to some bloody awful tv driven Sunday lunchtime kick off. For me that meant a rush across town from my sons 12 o'clock kick off to arrive at mecca just in time for the kick off. The sooner ITV Digital piss off and die the better!

Which leads me to my second gripe!!! Arriving at the ground late I expected to see every seat full with a sea of blue and white from wall to wall. Instead we have 25,000 who can be bothered to get off their arses to come down and support our team. Somewhere, there are another 25,000, who; if we manage to make it through to Cardiff will be phoning up Tom Ross to complain. "Tom, it's not right, I've followed the blues for a hundred years and now a can't get a ticket for the final." Well tough! You decided to watch it on telly and listen to the mutterings of that viler scumbag Townsend.

I can't believe that with a stub from this match guaranteeing you a ticket for the play off we can't fill the ground. I don't want to sound like some old duffer (jumpers for goal posts etc) but when I started coming down the blues we averaged over 30,000 a match and topped 50,000 in some of them. Where are they now, they can't all be dead!

Anyway, the game. Just a few changes from the last game, Williams got a rest with G man back and Stan was back on the left instead of Curtis. Lovely sunny day, expectations were high so it was only to be expected that we would score after 60 seconds when John brought down Harry Hill's cross and flicked it past Beasant. We were on our way!

It was one of those games where the other side just kept passing the ball around and we were chasing shadows, but at least we did chase and by and large we kept pompey from creating any real chances. At the other end, both Stan and Damien looked dangerous and tried to get past the full backs (sometimes successfully).

But there seems little point in even trying to go past a defender if all they have to do to stop you is pull you back, because there is clearly a law somewhere which says that if you wear a blues shirt you can be wrestled to the ground in the penalty area and be given a) an indirect free kick for obstruction, b) a booking or c) fuck all!

This referee was an absolute disgrace, he cheated us out of three points. Whether we deserved it or not is irrelevant, he took away our right to three potential goals then rewards us by ignoring an offside decision which was so obvious even the ITV monkey could have spotted it. Result, once again we don't defend a free kick which shouldn't have been given (just like wolves/rotherham/Forest) and two points go down the pan. Why can't we just forget it when decisions go against us and get on with defending it properly!

So where does this leave us? A lot of people are saying that we were garbage, it was back

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THE STANDS

to TF football we're not going to make the play off's etc etc, but hang on. If we were really that crap, how did we get to a position where we could have got three penalties, plus one cleared off the line plus a fantastic save from Beasant. There have been times under TF where we have gone a month without seeing that many chances. I know that they should have scored from the rebound shot that was skied into the tilton but so what. That makes it 6-1 if we ignore their offside goal and I'll settle for that.

Man of the match for me was probably John but I thought it was pretty even really. At the back Vaesen did well enough to keep his place, Grainger was ok, Purse and Tebily obviously need to settle down together and Kenna does look class when he stops wandering infield. Stan tried hard enough along with the rest of the midfield which leaves me with Harry Hill. I can't for the life of me see why Brucy insists on starting with him every game either up front or on the left wing. I know he put a great cross in for the goal but that was about his last contribution and that was after only 60 seconds!

I don't want to start off at him and I'm sure that if we used him as a sub he could add something to the team but I can't believe he deserves to be selected ahead of the Horse. Perhaps he's got some dirt on brucie!

So with three games left it's still all in our own hands, six wins on the trot and we are in the premier..... believe our club record is five!

KRO Tony

HATS FOR SALE

IT'S GETTING DECIDEDLY COLD NOW. AND CHRISTMAS IS LOOMING. SO WHY NOT TREAT YOUR SELF TO A FUNKY ENGLAND HAT. THEY'RE ONLY A FIVER.

JUST ASK ONE OF THE FANZINE SELLERS

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TEN CHANGES FOR SEAN BEAN'S BLADES

A touch of Hollywood glamour rubbed off on the Nationwide League this week when professional Yorkshireman Sean Bean was given a place on the board of his beloved Sheffield United.

But what changes will the man who starred in The Lord Of The Rings bring to the Blades - sorry, t'Blades?

1) All players to adopt Tolkien-friendly names. Say hello to Paul 'Pippin' Peschisolido, Simon 'Treeleaf' Tracey and George 'Samwise' Santos.

2) And for that matter Michael The Brown, Lord Laurent Of Jaffo and Ndlovu The Ever-Living.

3) Two crossed scimitars on club badge to be replaced by Sword Of The Ringwraith and Glamdring, The Foe Hammer.

4) Bramall Lane to be renamed Bag End.

5) Matchday programmes to be available in Elvish, Orkish and the Lost Tongue of Nan-Tathren.

6) Neil Warnock to be replaced by Neil the Warlock.

7) Disciplinary system to be overhauled. Any breach of club rules will now be punished by a spell in the Mines of Moria or, in more extreme cases, banishment to the Cracks of Doom.

8) Players to be transported to away games on backs of giant eagles.

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GENERAL

9) Daily training sessions will now include instruction in use of pike, buckler, shortstaff, cudgel and halberd as well as keepy-up.

10) Pre-season tour to include friendlies against Hobbiton, Hither Shore, Lothlórien and the Land Of The Dead That Live.

WORLD CUP EXCUSES

It's getting close to the World Cup down Japan way. And as we all know some of the times will interfere with our working schedule. So here are a few excuses to spin over to your non footie loving boss. It may just work!!!

Number 1) Ring in and say you've got an urgent appointment with your psychiatrist because you woke up in the middle of the night suffering from strange and disturbing delusions.

Underline the fact by interspacing your excuses with coments such as "I didn't know Ron Atkinson was Professor of English Literature at Cambridge University, did you" and "You don't often come across self-made millionaires as humble and self-effacing as Ken Bates and Doug Ellis, do you?"

Number 2) "I woke up to find that my knees have disappeared. I'll probably have to spend the morning looking for them."

Number 3) Just say you've broken the second metatarsal bone on your left foot and blame it on a dirty Argie. You'll have everyone's sympathy.

Number 4) You bought some Nippon Ant Killer for those hot sticky days and when you opened it, it was empty. So you're assuming the stance of an irate customer and returning the goods to the maker - in Japan!

THE TALIBAN PA

The Top 20 Little-Known Terrorist Organizations

Al Quesadilla -- fighting for Mexican cheese appetizers

B.R.A. (Banana Republican Army) -- khaki-wearing freedom fighting yuppies

International House of Paramilitarism -- No attacks before breakfast!

Al Shamu -- whales fighting for liberation of their Seaworld-captive brethren

Ku Klutz Klan -- clumsy cross-burning rednecks

Kabob-aloos -- Cuban freedom fighters armed only with skewers

The IRAs -- little nebbish guys who annoy the hell out of people, with pants hiked high to conceal their Glocks

El McPherson -- band of crazed-from-hunger Supermodels

The Moulin Rouge -- French Communist song and dance troupe

The Spanish Imposition -- Your Tia Josephina comes for a visit, stays for a month, and lounges around all day watching Spanish soap operas with the TV volume blasting.

Al Kato -- freeloading houseguests who move in and eat all your food

The Talibananarama -- spreading the message of bad British '80s dance music

Hamina-hamina-hamas -- freedom fighters for Jackie Gleason

Balsamic Jihad -- fundamentalist food critics

"Weird Al" Qaeda -- attacking the capitalist, American government by spreading their revolutionary message in the form of a rousing polka medley

The Black Pansies -- black-gloved horticulturists

Yeehaw Jihad -- "The Cowboys of Chaos"

Al Ro'ker -- eighty percent chance of a Rain of Terror!

Falun Bong -- Uhm... hey, man, what are we fighting again?

and the Number 1 Little-Known Terrorist Organization...

Pujafudin-Pujafudout -- spreading the terror that is the Hokey Pokey

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TITILLATION GES

Top Ten Osama Bin Laden Complaints

10. "Can't get premium channels in the cave, only basic cable"

9. "New laundry guy using too much starch on my turbans"

8. "I wash and wash and wash, but at the end of the day I still smell like a camel"

7. "You try to remember four wedding anniversaries"

6. "Itchy beard"

5. "With Giambi, the Yankees are going to win another four damn World Series!"

4. "You just can't trust those unfaithful Pashtun tribesmen, am I right, people?"

3. "MTV never plays videos anymore"

2. "Mullah Omar

phone the swe
'Yello'

1. "What the hell do I have to do to get on 'Oprah'?"

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NON FOOTBALL BUT VERY FUNNY

These are extracts from actual letters sent to various councils and housing associations throughout the UK:

I want some repairs done to my cooker as it has backfired and burnt my knob off.

I wish to complain that my father hurt his ankle very badly when he put his foot in the hole in his back passage.

... and their 18 year old son is continually banging his balls against my fence.

I wish to report that tiles are missing from the outside toilet roof. I think it was bad wind the other night that blew them off.

My lavatory seat is cracked, where do I stand. I am writing on behalf of my sink, which is coming away from the wall.

Will you please send someone to mend the garden path. My wife tripped and fell on it yesterday and now she is pregnant. We are getting married in September and we would like it in the garden before we move into the house.

I request permission to remove my drawers in the kitchen.

..50% of the walls are damp, 50% have crumbling plaster and the rest are plain filthy.

I am still having problems with smoke in my new drawers.

The toilet is blocked and we cannot bath the children until it is cleared.

Will you please send a man to look at my water, it is a funny colour and not fit to drink.

Our lavatory seat is broken in half and is now in three pieces.

Would you please send a man to repair my spout. I am an old age pensioner and need it badly.

I want to complain about the farmer across the road; every morning at 6am his cock wakes me up and its now getting too much for me.

The man next door has a large erection in the back garden, which is unsightly and dangerous.

Our kitchen floor is damp. We have two children and would like a third so please send someone round to do something about it.

I am a single woman living in a downstairs flat and would you please do something about the noise made by the man I have on top of me every night.

Please send a man with the right tool to finish the job and satisfy my wife.

I have had the clerk of the works down on the floor six times but I still have no satisfaction.

This is to let you know that our lavatory seat is broken and we can't get BBC2.

My bush is really overgrown round the front and my back passage has fungus growing in it.

.. and he's got this huge tool that vibrates the whole house and I just cant take it anymore.

.. that is his excuse for dogs mess that I find hard to swallow.

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2	Come To Birmingham And You Will See	1050 635
3	Your Going Home In A F*****G Ambulance	1050 636
4	Yam Yam Yam Yam Yam Yam	1050 637
5	Blues Go Marching In	1050 638
6	Your S**T And You Know You Are	1050 639
7	My Old Man Said	1050 640
8	Cardiff Dance	1050 641
9	You Are My Sunshine	1050 642
10	Can You Hear The Villa Sing, Nooooooooo	1050 643
11	We Hate The Bastards In Claret & Blue	1050 644
12	Keep Right On	1050 645

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Motorola V2250, V100, V250 and V50, Sagem930 ,936, 939, 940, 942, 946, 949, 950, 952, 956, 932, 959 Nokia 3210, 7110, 3310, 3330, 6210, 6110, 6150, 8110i, 8210, 8850, 8890, 6090, 9110

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